

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 SY-04 IO-14 DRC-01 USSS-00 /139 W

----- 001741

R 131220Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7902

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NDJAMENA 1228

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CD

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING IN CHAD

REF: NDJAMENA 1104

1. OVER WEEKEND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA HAVE CONTRIBUTED MISSING ELEMENT IN BARDAI KIDNAPPING WITH NEWS THAT REBEL GROUP WILL RELEASE THREE EUROPEAN HOSTAGES WHEN GOC FREES THIRTY-TWO POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PROVIDES INCREASED DROUGHT-RELIEF TO REMOTE TIBESTI REGION. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN WE BELIEVE THIS INFORMATION PROBABLY ORIGINATED IN BONN OR PARIS WHERE GOF AND FRG MUST BY NOW BE THOROUGHLY IRKED WITH GOC REFUSAL OR PERHAPS INABILITY TO COPE WITH INCIDENT. IT IS ALSO BEGINNING TO APPEAR THAT KIDNAPPING INCIDENT MAY HAVE BEEN OPENING ROUND IN NEW, BETTER ORGANIZED TOUBOU RESISTANCE BY FROLINAT ELEMENTS NOT ENGAGED IN DESULTORY PEACE TALKS WITH SOME "OUTLAW" CHIEFS INITIATED LAST JANUARY.

2. ALTHOUGH GOC DAILY INFOTCHAD AND RADIO MAINTAINED
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COMPLETE SILENCE UNTIL TODAY, PARTY WEEKLY, CANARD DECHAINE, IN LAST

TWO ISSUES HAS REFERRED TO CASE. LAST WEEK'S ITEM WAS "FACTUAL" ANNOUNCING "FOUR" HOSTAGES HAD BEEN SEIZED (AT TIME WHEN IT WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED DRIVER-MECHANIC KOCH ALSO TAKEN). NAME OF REBEL GROUP LEADER GIVEN AS ISSENE HABRE, UNIVERSITY EDUCATED TOUBOU FROM DERDE (TRADITIONAL RULER) CLAN WHO SEEKS DEPOSE PRO-GOC DOUBOUMI CLAN FROM POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY AND RESTITUTION OF PROPERTIES DOUBOUMI CLAN "ILLEGALLY" ACQUIRED SINCE BEGINNING OF REBELLION IN 1966. FROLINAT WAS NOT MENTIONED NOR WAS REBEL COMMUNIQUE. NOTICE WAS TAKEN OF PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW WITH BONN SPECIAL EMISSARIES WALLNER AND WEBER AND TOBMAL-BAYE'S ASSURANCE GOC WOULD "DO EVERYTHING" TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF HOSTAGES.

3. MAY 11 CANARD DECHAIINE, HOWEVER, CARRIES LONG, SCURRILOUS, OBFUSCATING EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BARDAI PUZZLE" CLAIMING TWO FRENCH HOSTAGES HAVE SELVES TO BLAME FOR BEING IN MILITARILY RESTRICTED AREA WHICH THEY HAD NO PERMISSION ENTER. ASKS HOW HOSTAGES ARE ABLE TO USE RADIO TO COMMUNICATE WITH BONN AND PARIS, SENDING MESSAGES WHICH GOC IS NOT ALLOWED TO KNOW ABOUT. SHARPLY CRITICES MISSION POUR LA REFORME ADMINISTRATIVE (MRA) FOR SENDING MONSIEUR COMBES (ALSO GIVEN AS COLME) TO NORTHERN CHAD WITH RADIO-EQUIPPED LAND-ROVER, BROADLY HINTING AT SUSPICIOUS FRENCH MOTIVES. BEHAVIOR OF MONSIEUR CLAUSTRE, HUSBAND OF ONE HOSTAGE AND MRA OFFICIAL HIMSELF, IN PROCEEDING BARDAI WITH GOC PERMISSION IS ATTACKED. QUOTES NEWLY ARRIVED FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOUZE (YET TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS AFTER THREE WEEKS) AS SAYING FRENCH AUTHORITIES NOT INTERFERING AND LEAVING ALL TO GOC. EDITORIAL REPORTS FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL SENT TO BARDAI TO REPRIMAND CLAUSTRE AND INFORM HIM HE DOES "NOT REPRESENT FRANCE AT BARDAI". (FROM OTHER SOURCES WE LEARN CLAUSTRE VERY BITTER OVER GOC HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE AND THREATENING CREATE SCANDAL FOR LOCAL FRENCH AUTHORITIES.) FINALLY "ROLE OF MADAME CLAUSTRE" IS DESCRIBED AS "NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR". WHAT WAS THIS LADY ARCHEOLOGIST DOING AT BARDAI FAR FROM AREA WHERE SHE HAD AUTHORITY FOR RESEARCH? WHY WAS SHE "INCOGNITO"? VEILED IMPLICATION IS ALSO LEFT OF HANKY-PANKY BETWEEN COMBES AND MADAME CLAUSTRE. TODAY'S INFOTCHAD REHASHES ABOVE BRIEFLY.

4. OUR FRENCH EMBASSY COLLEAGUES HAVE KEPT ENTIRELY MUM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH US ON INCIDENT FROM BEGINNING. FRG AMBASSADOR STATES THEY HAVE ALSO DRIED UP AS SOURCE FOR HIM. MEANWHILE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TOUZE HAS BEEN KEPT WAITING FOR UNCONSCIONABLY LONG TIME TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS. WE UNDERSTAND TWO APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE LAST WEEK BY PRESENT FOR CEREMONY AND CANCELLED ON SHORT NOTICE. PRESIDENT CHARACTERISTICALLY, OF COURSE, WILL SEE FINE HAND OF JACQUES FOCCART BEHIND ANY EFFORT OR INCIDENT TO EMBARRASS HIM, AS THIS CASE MOST PROFOUNDLY

DOES.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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